Tuesday
December 5, 2017

TODAY
55 / 40
Morning showers

WEDNESDAY
44 / 38
60% chance of rain

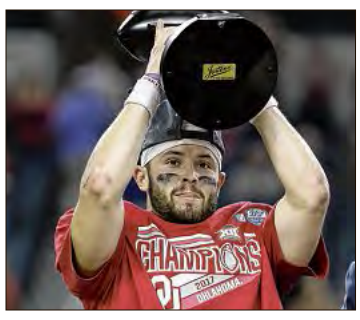
THURSDAY
54 / 36
20% chance of rain

Statesman Weather App: Live radar, weather news and alerts.

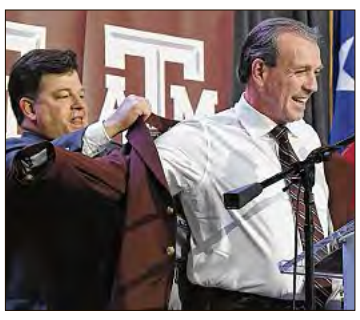
$2.00

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SPORTS, C1
LAKE TRAVIS' MAYFIELD ON LIST OF 3 FOR HEISMAN



SPORTS, C1
HOWDY, COACH
Why Jimbo Fisher may be right fit for Aggies

AUSTIN360, D1
OUR PICKS: THE 10 BEST VIDEO GAMES OF THE YEAR

FIRST ON STATESMAN.COM TEXAS MARRIAGE

Marriage benefits ruling stands



People stand in line to enter the U.S. Supreme Court building on Monday in Washington, D.C. JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Supreme Court rejects Houston's appeal of effort to overturn benefits for same-sex spouses.

By Chuck Lindell
clindell@statesman.com

The U.S. Supreme Court declined Monday to overturn a Texas ruling that raised questions about the rights of couples in same-sex marriages.

The controversy arose in June when the Texas Supreme Court revived a lawsuit that sought to eliminate benefits offered to the same-sex spouses of city of Houston employees, ruling that the right to a marriage license did not automatically entitle same-

Ruling continued on **A6**

SUPREME COURT BACKS TRAVEL BAN
The Supreme Court gave President Donald Trump a significant victory Monday, ruling he may put his full travel ban into effect while legal appeals are being weighed in lower courts. The court did not issue an opinion with the order. **Story, A4**

SAN MARCOS OFFICER KILLED

San Marcos officer shot, killed while serving warrant

By Katie Hall
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Officer Kenneth Copeland, 58, a father of four, was working on his day off.

SAN MARCOS — A San Marcos police officer who was working on his day off was shot and killed Monday afternoon while serving a warrant on the shooting suspect, who was wounded and taken into custody after a standoff with authorities, city officials said.

Officer Kenneth Copeland, a 58-year-old father of four and a husband who was previously in the U.S. Coast Guard, is the first San Marcos police officer to be killed in the line of duty, San Marcos Police Chief Chase Stapp said.

Copeland was serving a warrant at the El Camino Real subdivision when he was shot multiple times, officials said. Police did not provide the exact street where the shooting happened.

"We lost a hero today. ... He knew we were short-handed and needed the help," Stapp said.

City Manager Bert Lumbreras said San Marcos officers are devastated by Copeland's death.

"I saw a lot of crying," he said. "I saw people's hearts ripped out."

Copeland and other officers went about 2:20 p.m. to a home in El Camino Real, near Old Bastrop Road and Guadalupe Street, to serve the warrant, Stapp said. The charge was for a violent crime, but Stapp did not provide the exact charge or the name of the shooting suspect.

"Shortly after their arrival, it appears that this individual began firing at the officers," Stapp said. "Officer Copeland was struck several times."

Officer continued on **A6**

STATESMAN EXCLUSIVE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT



This rendering shows plans for an East Austin complex that would include a 15,000-seat arena adjacent to a 40,000-seat open-air facility. It is being proposed by Austin Sports & Entertainment, partnering with Rodeo Austin. CONTRIBUTED

Proposal to replace Expo Center offered

Local group envisions 'world-class sports and entertainment hub.'

By Kevin Lyttle
klyttle@statesman.com



Rodeo Austin CEO Rob Golding said Austin misses out on hosting many events "because the Expo Center is outdated and outsized, and downtown is too cost-prohibitive." JAY JANNER / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

A small local group with a big vision and political backing has unveiled plans for a wide-ranging project called the East Austin District, highlighted by a large arena and a multipurpose stadium.

Austin Sports & Entertainment, co-founded by former University of Texas swimming star Sean Foley and New England sports entrepreneur Andrew Nestor, partnering with Rodeo Austin, intends to work with the city of Austin and Travis County governments to replace the Travis County Exposition Center with a 15,000-seat arena adjacent to a 40,000-seat open-air facility.

"The natural growth of the city is east, but that area has been neglected far too long," Foley told the American-Statesman. "Right now, it might be several miles from downtown; tomorrow, it won't be."

The complex, designed to include office space, a convention area, medical facilities, retail and eight courtyards, could house a wide variety of sports events, concerts, trade shows and festivals.

"We have private land and private money, and our goal is to build a world-class sports and entertainment hub in East Austin," Nestor said.

Austin Sports & Entertainment did not disclose the project's price tag, which they say will be a high bar to hurdle.

A 15,000-seat arena opened in Wichita, Kan., in 2010 at a cost of $205 million, according to the Wichita Eagle. It was funded by a voter-approved additional 1 percent sales tax in Sedgwick County. The University of Houston opened 40,000-seat TDECU Stadium in 2014 for $128 million after it was originally budgeted at $105 million. The Austin facility could far exceed the cost of con-

Complex continued on **A6**

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Trump's tweet raises specter of obstruction

Message seems to imply president had known Flynn lied to FBI agents.

By Jonathan Lemire and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The shifting explanations for why President Donald Trump fired national security adviser Michael Flynn have revived questions about whether the president may have obstructed an ongoing investigation of potential contacts between his campaign and Russia.

Pressure on the administration has mounted since Flynn last week pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador, with prosecutors revealing that he is now cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. And a muddled White House response, including a problematic presidential tweet, has left some Trump confidants worried that the president is not being well-served by his legal team and believing his lawyers have painted a too-rosy picture of the president's potential plight.

The president's aides and legal advisers have scrambled for 48 hours to explain a presidential tweet that raised the specter of obstruction. It read: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

That tweet appeared to indicate

Trump continued on **A5**



ONLY IN THE EPAPER
Travel Extra section in today's ePaper
Explore extra pages of travel coverage, available only to subscribers at **statesman.com/epaper**.

NATION & WORLD, A4
Congressional leaders, Trump to talk budget
The conference over spending priorities is set for Thursday at the White House as a possible government shutdown looms.

NATION & WORLD, A5
Trump scales back size of 2 Utah monuments
President takes unprecedented step to undo designations of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase; environmentalists plan to sue.

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